

Policy Committee Update

Marianne B., Chairperson

October 2020

Policy statements are interpretations of our basic guides: The Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service. They help clarify how a Tradition or Concept might apply to a new or confusing situation that arises in Al-Anon or Alateen. Changes and additions to the Policy Digest are made only as our circumstances and growth require, since anticipating and including every specific situation would be impossible.

The purpose of the update sent each quarter by the Policy Committee Chairperson is to report progress and provide information on the following:

- Topics that are generated by the fellowship and discussed by the Policy Committee regarding issues or concerns that need clarification or interpretation in light of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Service
- Progress of work being completed by Policy Committee work groups, task, and thought forces
- Policy motions to be presented to the World Service Conference (WSC)
- Policy motions passed by the WSC

The Policy Committee meeting occurs quarterly prior to the Board of Trustees meeting. The Policy Committee met virtually October 26, 2020 from 10:00 - 3:00 pm with another very full agenda due to the number of active Thought and Task Forces.

The Conference Approved Literature and Service Tools/Materials Task Force presented text from the Policy Digest with recommended revisions and received some suggestions from the Policy Committee. Due to the breadth of the section under review, the Task Force will continue their work, utilize AFG Connects for further edits, and then bring more revisions to the Policy Committee in January 2021.

Next, the Policy Committee approved the Electronic Meeting Work Group (EMWG) to review and revise the “Announcing Events” section of the Policy Digest. The EMWG will bring forward their recommendations to the Policy Committee for discussion in January 2021. Additionally, the EMWG brought forward a dynamic conversation on ways in which to incorporate the electronic meetings as groups into the service structure and whether/how this might impact our policies. Based on the Board’s discussion and agreement, the EMWG will bring back anything necessary for the Policy Committee to review in January 2021.

The National and International Public Outreach Policy in Relation to Social Media Thought Force created a list of interesting questions for the Policy Committee to consider concerning the various intricacies around public outreach via social media. Due to the broad scope of the conversation, the Policy Committee agreed to continue the discussion at its next quarterly meeting.

Both the Membership and Group Meetings/Conventions Task Force and the Local Services Task Force presented recommendations for minor revisions to text from the Policy Digest after reviewing Conference member feedback from April 2020. They plan to continue discussion with the hope of final approval at the January 2021 Policy Committee Meeting and presentation and vote at the 2021 WSC.

After addressing administrative items including the approval of the Interim Housekeeping Actions Task Force report, the July 2020 Policy Committee minutes, and the Policy Secretary's report, the meeting adjourned. Thank you to all Policy Committee members who work tirelessly on these many task/thought forces. I look forward to sharing with you the progress regarding their ongoing work in the coming months.

As always, the Policy Committee welcomes all questions and suggestions from any Al-Anon and Alateen member, meeting, group, or Area regarding issues that might need further clarification or interpretation in light of our Legacies.